

## Minutes in Brief

### Southern Oregon ESD Board of Directors Regular Meeting

Wednesday, October 15, 2025

SOESD Administration Office, 101 North Grape Street, Medford, OR 97501

#### Board Members in Attendance:

Mary Barton	Present
Ariel Bloomer	Present
Brian Clark	Present
Jessie Hecocta	Absent
Rhonda Lawrence*	Present
Ana Mannenbach	Present
Bob Moore*	Present at 7:04 PM
Rebecca Mueller	Present
Richie Owens*	Present

#### Staff and Guests in Attendance:

Mark Angle-Hobson	Kylee Harrison*	Karlie Steuk*
Jessica Bach	Jacquie Jaquette*	Peggy Stock*
Tom Bigboy	Jeffrey Johnson*	Ryan Swearingen
Celine Buczek*	Jenni Jones	Amy Szeliga*
Stephanie Cossey	Katie Kelley*	Kristy Thorson*
Lynn Eide*	Liz Littleton	Carlie Wiley-Wolter*
Erin Green	Heidi Olivadoti*	Jeanetta Woodside
Barbara Griffin*	Susan Reynolds	

\*Attended via video/audio conference

#### 1. Preliminary

##### 1.A. Call to Order/Roll Call

The regular meeting of the Southern Oregon Education Service District Board of Directors was held in the downstairs conference room of the SOESD administration office in Medford and by video/audio conference on Wednesday, October 15, 2025. Chair Mannenbach called the meeting to order at 6:01 PM.

##### 1.B. Land Acknowledgement

Southern Oregon Education Service District and the areas in which we serve are located within the ancestral homelands of the Shasta, Takelma, Latgawa, Klamath, Modoc, and the Yahooskin-Paiute peoples who lived here since time immemorial. The full text of SOESD's land acknowledgment can be read on the SOESD website: <https://www.soesd.k12.or.us/equity>

1.C. Pledge of Allegiance

1.D. Comments from Representatives of the Associations

Amy Szeliga, president of the licensed association, commented on the status of several meetings held to negotiate the Collective Bargaining Agreement between the Association and the District. She noted that a tentative Memorandum of Agreement had been reached regarding district-paid insurance contributions. Ms. Szeliga stated that the licensed team had, with some reservations and caveats, decided to bring its financial proposal in line with the District's offer, describing the decision as a leap of faith and trust. Sidebars and bargaining meetings are scheduled to negotiate the remaining open articles.

No representatives from the classified association were in attendance to provide comment.

1.E. Requests to Address Agenda Items

*Susan Reynolds, Request to Address Agenda Item 6. Executive Session*

Ms. Reynolds commented on the status of labor negotiations and her dissatisfaction with the district's compensation offer for licensed employees.

1.F. Consent Agenda A. Approval of Agenda

B. Approval of Meeting Minutes: September 17, 2025

C. Personnel Report

D. Approval of Proposed SOESD Board Policies

E. Financial Report

**IT WAS MOVED BY MEMBER BARTON AND SECONDED BY MEMBER MUELLER, TO:**

Approve all items on the consent agenda as presented.

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Barton: Yea, Bloomer: Yea, Clark: Yea, Hecocta: Absent, Lawrence: Yea, Mannenbach: Yea, Moore: Absent, Mueller: Yea, Owens: Yea

**Motion Carried – Yea: 7, Nay: 0, Absent: 2**

2. Communications

2.A. Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Angle-Hobson noted that the report highlighting his activities for the month was provided in the meeting packet. Dr. Angle-Hobson shared that he had participated in an activity of special impact that day, the SOESD's first White Cane Day at Gold Hill Sports Park. Special Education Coordinator Jaime Banks planned this event with staff from the Program for the Visually Impaired. Students rotated through different stations, including tandem bike rides, craft projects, and other activities. The superintendent enjoyed seeing learning unfold alongside the smiles and laughter of the students, employees, and parents in attendance. Connecting with children, employees, and families was a special, heartwarming event.

Dr. Angle-Hobson reported that a Strategic Planning Kickoff meeting had been held on September 30, 2025. He explained that the Strategic Planning Steering Committee is inclusive across the agency, comprised of about 30 individuals representing a cross-section of SOESD programs, job positions, and labor groups. Members Bloomer and Lawrence shared their feedback from participating in the first meeting. Superintendent Angle-Hobson noted that asking Members Bloomer and Lawrence to participate in the

Strategic Planning Steering Committee may have been out of process, and in the future, requests for board member representatives to serve on committees will be brought to the Board for appointment.

## 2.B. Supports for Novice Educators

Jenni Jones, School Improvement Specialist and SOESD mentor program coordinator, presented a PowerPoint titled "Supports for Novice Educators: Building a Thriving Community of Educators in Southern Oregon." Ms. Jones shared the goals of the SOESD's Southern Oregon Regional Educator Network (SOREN) Mentor Program and reported on the positive impact the high-quality mentoring program provides. Instructional mentoring, coaching, and professional development make up a comprehensive system of supports that experienced mentors provide to novice teachers in the region.

## 3. Administration

### 3.A. Appointment to OAESD Governance Council

The OAESD Governance Council consists of the Superintendent and a Board representative from each member ESD. The SOESD Board representative seat is currently vacant. The Governance Council meets four times a year. Agendas are published in advance of each meeting, and each ESD gets a single vote on any matters requiring action. Occasionally, the Governance Council may conduct surveys on time-sensitive matters that require the Association's attention. In some ESDs, the Board representative to the Governance Council provides regular reports on OAESD activities to the rest of the board. Member Barton expressed interest in being considered for appointment to the OAESD Governance Council.

#### **IT WAS MOVED BY MEMBER MUELLER AND SECONDED BY MEMBER CLARK TO:**

Appoint Mary Barton to the OAESD Governance Council for the 2025-2026 fiscal year.

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Barton: Abstain (With Conflict), Bloomer: Yea, Clark: Yea, Hecocota: Absent, Lawrence: Yea, Mannenbach: Yea, Moore: Absent, Mueller: Yea, Owens: Yea

**Motion Carried – Yea: 6, Nay: 0, Absent: 2, Abstain: 1**

### 3.B. First Reading of Proposed SOESD Board Policies

The proposed SOESD board policies listed below were reviewed in first reading by the Board. Content edits made by the Board and corrections to scrivener's errors will be reflected in these policies that will be presented for second reading and approval during the November regular meeting.

- DJC: Bidding Requirements
- DJC-AR: Exemptions from Competitive Bidding and Special Procurements
- DLC-AR: Staff Expense Reimbursement  
Policy DLC-AR (Insurance Coverage) applies to board members as well as staff while traveling for SOESD-related business. Board members will be asked to send the Board Secretary a copy of their driver's license and provide their vehicle insurance policy information to comply with the proposed policy.
- EBBA: Student Health Services
- EBBA: Infection Control and Bloodborne Pathogens
- EBBB: Injury or Illness Reports

- EBC: Emergency Procedures Plan and First Aid
- EBCA: Safety Threats
- EBCB: Emergency Procedure Drills and Instruction
- EHB: Cybersecurity
- EHB-AR: Cybersecurity

### 3.C. Contract for Services with ISO Workforce Alliance

Administration requested approval to enter into an agreement with ISO Workforce Alliance for the 2025-26 fiscal year, not to exceed \$114,000.00, for the services of an Occupational Therapist. Director Harrison explained that SOESD is in need of an Occupational Therapist to provide special education supports and services to meet the requirements of the District's contracts with the Oregon Department of Education (ODE) and component school districts. While contracting allows SOESD to ensure the continuity of services for students, the district is committed to building a stable, consistent workforce. The intent of this contract is to cover the need while continuing to recruit to hire a full-time Occupational Therapist.

**IT WAS MOVED BY MEMBER MUELLER AND SECONDED BY MEMBER BLOOMER TO:**

Approve entering into agreement with ISO Workforce at a cost not to exceed \$114,000.00.

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Barton: Yea, Bloomer: Yea, Clark: Yea, Hecocta: Absent, Lawrence: Yea, Mannenbach: Yea, Moore: Yea, Mueller: Yea, Owens: Yea

**Motion Carried – Yea: 8, Nay: 0, Absent: 1**

### 3.D. Approval to Establish Square Processing Account

Administration requested Board approval to establish a Square payment processing account for use in approved SOESD-sponsored fundraising and event activities. A document providing background information and specific details regarding the proposal was provided. CFO Woodside and Superintendent Angle-Hobson shared examples of fundraising activities that the district may organize in the near future. The cost of purchasing a card reader is estimated at \$50.00.

**IT WAS MOVED BY MEMBER MUELLER AND SECONDED BY MEMBER CLARK TO:**

Establish a Square payment processing account for use in approved SOESD-sponsored fundraising and event activities.

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Barton: Yea, Bloomer: Yea, Clark: Yea, Hecocta: Absent, Lawrence: Yea, Mannenbach: Yea, Moore: Yea, Mueller: Yea, Owens: Yea

**Motion Carried – Yea: 8, Nay: 0, Absent: 1**

### 3.E. 2025-2027 Conditions of Employment for Non-Bargaining Employee Groups

Ryan Swearingen, Chief Human Resources Officer, presented the proposed 2025-2027 Conditions of Employment for Non-Bargaining Employee Groups. Mr. Swearingen provided clarification that the proposed monthly insurance contribution mirrors that of the other labor groups and is paid by the District. He further clarified that the proposed stipend for employees who have earned a PhD is intended to include all doctorate degrees.

**IT WAS MOVED BY MEMBER BARTON AND SECONDED BY MEMBER CLARK TO:**

Approve the 2025-2027 Conditions of Employment for non-bargaining employee groups as presented.

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Barton: Yea, Bloomer: Yea, Clark: Yea, Hecocta: Absent, Lawrence: Yea, Mannenbach: Yea, Moore: Yea, Mueller: Yea, Owens: Yea

**Motion Carried – Yea: 8, Nay: 0, Absent: 1**

4. Business Affairs

4.A. 2025-2026 SOESD Resolution #5

2025-2026 SOESD Resolution #5 corrects scrivener's errors made in 2024-2025 SOESD Resolution #10 that was adopted by the Board on June 18, 2025.

**IT WAS MOVED BY MEMBER BARTON AND SECONDED BY MEMBER MUELLER TO:**

Approve the 2025-2026 SOESD Resolution #5.

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Barton: Yea, Bloomer: Yea, Clark: Yea, Hecocta: Absent, Lawrence: Yea, Mannenbach: Yea, Moore: Yea, Mueller: Yea, Owens: Yea

**Motion Carried – Yea: 8, Nay: 0, Absent: 1**

4.B. 2026-2027 SOESD Budget Year Calendar

CFO Woodside reviewed the proposed calendar for the 2026-2027 Budget Year, noting that the budget process for the next fiscal year will be underway soon. Superintendent Angle-Hobson reported that per SOESD board policy and state statute, members of the ESD budget committee shall be members of component school district boards or designees of a school district board. Dr. Angle-Hobson shared that he will be reaching out directly to the region's superintendents regarding the vacant seats on the SOESD budget committee. CFO Woodside has also reached out to the Business Managers in the component districts. The budget committee may meet to conduct business if the Board is unable to fill all the positions on the budget committee.

**IT WAS MOVED BY MEMBER MUELLER AND SECONDED BY MEMBER OWENS TO:**

Approve the 2026-2027 Budget Year Calendar as presented.

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Barton: Yea, Bloomer: Yea, Clark: Yea, Hecocta: Absent, Lawrence: Yea, Mannenbach: Yea, Moore: Yea, Mueller: Yea, Owens: Yea

**Motion Carried – Yea: 8, Nay: 0, Absent: 1**

4.C. Related Party Questionnaire

The Related Party Questionnaire is completed annually to document any related party activities between public officials and their respective agencies. To document activities of this type, the SOESD's auditors have requested that administrators and board members complete a related party questionnaire. While only board members who were seated during the 2024-2025 fiscal year were asked to complete the questionnaire for the audit of last fiscal year, at any time throughout the year if a board member knows or believes they may have a related party conflict, they are asked to inform CFO Woodside.

5. Executive Session ORS 192.660(2)(d)

At 7:26 PM, Chair Mannenbach announced the Board would meet in executive session pursuant to ORS 192.660(2)(d) to conduct deliberations with persons designated to carry on labor negotiations.

6. Open Session  
At 8:17 PM, Chair Mannenbach reconvened the Board in open session.
7. Miscellaneous
  - 7.A. Next Regular Meeting  
Wednesday, November 19, 2025 at the SOESD Administration Office in Medford, 6:00 PM.
  - 7.B. OSBA Fall Regional Meeting  
Monday, October 20, 2025, Ashland Hills Hotel, 5:30 PM - 8:00 PM. Dinner served at 6:30 PM. Board members planning to attend are asked to RSVP to the Board Secretary by October 13, 2025.
  - 7.C. OSBA Annual Convention  
Portland Marriott Downtown Waterfront, November 6-8, 2025. Board members interested in attending are asked to let the Board Secretary know as soon as possible so that conference registration and lodging reservations can be made.
  - 7.D. Launch of BoardBook Premier
8. Adjournment  
There being no further business, Chair Mannenbach adjourned the meeting of the Southern Oregon ESD Board of Directors at 8:22 PM.